

Neil Cummins PTA
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Thursday April 17, 2008, 8:20 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.
Neil Cummins Staff Room

Attendees:

Laura Anderson, President; Catherine Guthrie, Executive Vice-President; Julia Ritter, Vice President; Carolyn Caindec, Vice President; Andrea Pierpont, Vice President; Sheri Mowbray, Secretary; Ann Trunko, Treasurer; Susan Chrisman, Parliamentarian; Kris Wade, Historian; Marilyn Clark, Principal; Michelle Walker, Vice Principal; Sarah Notter; Tasmin Pessa; Suzanne Joyal; Miko Lee; Colleen Geiger; Karen Bond; Jamie Bueman.

Meeting Notes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. by Executive Vice President Cathie Guthrie.

Principal's Report

Marilyn Clark gave kudos to Suzanne Joyal who, along with Colleen Beery and the art team, did a great presentation for the staff regarding the proposed art program. She showed the teachers all of the art materials to be provided by the PTA and talked about how to use them. Marilyn said that the teachers were extremely excited and grateful. Marilyn also reported that she met with Deb Blum and Kim Murray about the redesign and relaunch of the NC website. She said it will be retooled to have more of an elementary school feel. Marilyn also said that she spoke to the teachers about the school supply situation for the fall. As of now, she thinks that the school will front the money to provide supplies and then ask parents to contribute to cover the cost. She thanked the PTA for all of the support we provide.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Trunko reported that Pay Pal has been set up by Kim for the PTA website. We will now be able to accept membership dues online in the fall – hooray! She anticipates that we would end the year with a \$20-25k surplus. The reason is because we budgeted extremely conservatively with regard to the new lunch program and the program has far exceeded our expectations. The third session of lunch will be close to \$81k. The spellathon also brought in more than expected, around \$23k. We currently have \$15,098 in our checking account and \$53,709 in our money market account. We have not yet been reimbursed for the lunch program by the district.

Ann asked that we ratify the checks written 3/12-4/16/08. Carolyn Caindec moved that we ratify the checks written 3/12-4/16/08. Susan Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval Items

Approve Minutes 3/11/08

Andrea Pierpont moved that we approve the minutes from the 3/11/08 general membership meeting. Julia Ritter seconded. Motion carried.

STARS Funding Request

Suzanne Joyal, an employee of Youth In Arts, spoke about the proposed art program. We would be looking to add a two-fold plan:

- Project Bins for every grade level for curriculum related projects
- Art Tool Kits for each class including a myriad of supplies including: oil pastels, markers, colored pencils, paint, good brushes and paper, etc.

Suzanne spoke about the Guerrilla Art parent program and said that her hope is that there can be an art parent representative for each class to help spearhead the program and help the teachers get more comfortable doing art. She said all of the above mentioned supplies would be ordered now for the fall. Miko Lee spoke and said that the program will be a 5-year program that has begun with fine arts and moving into more performing arts with music being added next year. She said that the Larkspur School District was selected for the art grant pilot program was largely because of the parent interest and willingness to support the art program. The idea is to combine art with the curriculum and do art for art's sake, as well as art supporting curriculum to help bring the curriculum to life.

The cost for the Project Bins is \$200/class for a total expenditure of \$7,000. The Classroom Art Kits are \$310/class for a total expenditure of \$10,850. The total cost is \$17,850, rounded up to \$18,000. This would support the launch. The PTA is committed to supporting the program thereafter, with anticipated yearly costs of \$14,000.

A D+ Dad, Brian Brown, who is an architect, is doing some drawings on redesign of the art room. The D+ Dads are willing to help make it more functional. Also, an online scheduling system has been created so it is easier for teachers to know when the room is available so they can use it more.

Miko Lee announced that July 2nd is Youth in Arts Day at the Marin County Fair. They are creating a maze of artwork by selecting one class at random per grade and displaying all of their art. They will need help with set-up and clean-up.

Ann Trunko moved that we dedicate \$18,000 for the STARS program roll-out for the fall. Kris Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Proposed Slate for PTA Board 2008-09

The proposed slate of officers was announced as follows:

Cathie Guthrie and Julia Ritter – Co-Presidents
Karen Bond – VP1 – Health & Safety
Linda Henn – VP2 – Operations
Sarah Notter – VP3 – Enrichment
Carolyn Caindec – VP4 – Fundraising
Jamie Bueman – VP5 – Volunteer Coordinator/Membership
Ann Trunko – Treasurer
Debbie Arnowitz – Financial Secretary
Pam Bittner – Auditor
Kris Wade – Historian
Susan Christman – Secretary
Monica Malone – Parliamentarian

Andrea Pierpont moved that we elect the slate. Carolyn Caindec seconded the motion. Motion carried. Slate is elected!

The swearing in will take place at the Volunteer Breakfast on 5/14.

Discussion Items

PTA Sponsored Snacks for STAR Testing

Pam Bittner has spearheaded an effort to provide students with healthy snacks during STAR testing. Marilyn gave an update after discussing this with staff. The staff felt that it was more important to nourish students before testing than to reward them afterwards for many reasons.

There was an idea for us to provide something like granola bars to the office or to each classroom for kids who are hungry before the tests. The idea still needs to be worked on and will be finalized prior to testing. The board approved up to \$1,000 to provide the snacks.

Upcoming Events

Flunk the Budget Rally – There is still no official change to the cut in education funds and a rally is planned for Friday 4/25 at 3:30. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The rally will be held at the Marin Civic Center.

Strategic Planning Sessions – Two sessions will be held on April 30th. The morning session will be from 8:30-10:30 at the community room next to the district office; the evening session will be from 7p-9p at the Hall Library. The district will be setting goals for 2008-10 and everyone's input is needed!

Earth Day Benefit Concert – The Roadside Daisies will be performing at the Earth Day event on April 23rd from 6p-8p. There will be lots of activities in addition to the music. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Volunteer Breakfast – This is our next general membership meeting celebrating all volunteers and it will be held on May 14th in the gym.

Flower Day – This event will be on May 6th. Students will be encouraged to bring a flower for their teacher. HRP's will coordinate providing a vase for their classroom. This is also the day of the Staff Appreciation Lunch served by board members.

Lice Check - The third and final lice check is Friday April 25th.

Open Committee Positions

The positions still open include: hot lunch volunteers, spiritwear, campus improvement, sign changer, holiday store, membership, head lice checker, and community page compiler. Tasmin Pessa also spoke about her two important jobs that are not formally under PTA jurisdiction, but need to be filled. The first is running the Walk and Roll program, as well as a carpool coordinator. She is also in charge of TV Turnoff Week (which is next week) and someone will be needed to lead this effort next year.

CMLSF Auction

Molly Wuthrich spoke about the auction. They are holding two new events this year: a fashion show at 11:30-2 on Friday May 2nd. That evening will be Kids' Night for K-4th grade kids. Auction RSVP's are due 4/28. The online auction is open until the day before the auction and the items available online will not be available on-site.

Additional Business

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Mowbray